

# General Plan Program Citizens' Advisory Committee

## Minutes of Meeting #2 – June 23, 2003

---

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the General Plan program held its second meeting on Monday, June 23, 2003 at 6:00 P.M. on the 7th floor of City Hall, in the Mayor's Ceremonial conference room. Attendees were as follows:

### **CAC Members**

Surekha Acharya  
General Stan Brown  
Manuel Carrasco  
Finn Comer  
Kimberly Davidson-Morgan  
George Flower  
Barry Johnson  
Maureen Kane  
David Leonard  
Maynard Lowry  
David McNiel  
Tom Pevehouse  
Sally Silva  
Kenneth Sutter  
Mike Teer  
Judy Teunissen  
Bill Warkentin (BIA alternate)

Those members of the CAC who were unable to attend informed Planning staff in advance of the meeting.

### **City Staff**

Ken Gutierrez, Planning Director  
Craig Aaron, Principal Planner  
Diane Jenkins, AICP, Senior Planner  
Patricia Brenes, Associate Planner  
Herman Mukasa, AICP, Associate Planner  
Wendell Bugtai, Planning Intern

### **Consultant Team**

Laura Stetson, Cotton/Bridges/Associates  
Brian Boecking, Cotton/Bridges/Associates  
Jean D'Agostino, The Arroyo Group

As the first order of business, Dave Leonard was elected Chairperson of the CAC and Tom Pevehouse as Vice Chairperson.

The minutes of the June 9, 2003 CAC meeting were approved with minor corrections.

- McNiel – correct spelling
- Ken Sutter was identified as present

The consultant team began a review of the preliminary objectives and strategies set forth in the workbook provided to the CAC prior to the meeting.

## **Public Facilities and Infrastructure**

### *Water and Wastewater*

- Regarding policy 1.1: Does the City have a horizon year for assurance water supply so that would be agenda for investments? Yes, said staff. The CAC directed that this be integrated into the policy. Establish a target.
- Articulate goals to use reclaimed water.
- City-owned services versus those provided by WMWD: This difference is not specified anywhere.
- High quality drinking water: The City should go beyond minimum standard for taste, etc.
- Gray water ordinance should be considered, systems which keep water re-circulating in the home before going into sewage system.
- Encourage, don't mandate use of gray water.
- Move to find ways for creative uses of gray water and also ways to reclaim it within a development complex. Provide incentives for this.
- Should we address prior contaminants and how it affects the water quality?
- Support the efforts of researching groundwater clean-up (UCR, etc.).
- The transport cost of moving treated water is expensive. Treat it locally to be of net benefit to community. The total cost of treating wastewater would be reduced.
- Investigate new ways to treat wastewater more sustainably and closer to the source.
- Riverside has huge water resources underground that are contaminated. In future, could we treat it?
- Continue to expand and support SAWPA efforts.

### *Private Utilities*

- We need to identify alternative forms of energy.
- The City's power department is very forward-thinking. Look at their policies and bring them into the General Plan.
- Riverside offers no real incentive for solar energy use. We need to encourage it and provide incentives.
- Stay at the forefront of research and using alternative forms of energy.
- These policies need to relate to annexed areas as well.
- For energy conservation, look to passive solar technologies.
- Use development standards and design guidelines to encourage passive energy use.
- Address energy conservation in the Public Infrastructure Element.

### *Telecommunications*

- Design standards and guidelines needed to accommodate telecommunications. This is practiced already to some extent. See the Riverside Community On-line program.
- Encourage competition among providers, including cable television.
- Riverside has no local television station. There are opportunities to partner with colleges and universities.
- Make sure everyone has access to outside stations, as well as Riverside's own station.

### *Stormwater Drainage*

- State law is restrictive; make sure we reference meeting state requirements. Do we want to meet the minimum or more? How far should Riverside go?
- Incorporate water features into design.
- Parking lots could channel water into natural arroyos instead of directly into pipes.
- Use runoff for recharge.
- Agriculture practices involve flooding instead of individual tree watering, resulting in excess water runoff. Discourage this.
- What about pollution from runoff? When captured, it must be clean before reuse.
- Policy 1.1 from the current plan is too specific. Amend it to be more general.

### *Solid Waste*

- We need to make specific reference to bio-solids processing as well.
- Encourage residents to properly dispose of surplus furniture, etc. Riverside needs to educate the public about where to do this to address dumping.
- Encourage recycling throughout entire City. Right now Downtown is not given the opportunity.
- Reuse solid waste and provide incentives to get rid of it in a proper manner (e.g., don't charge fees at the dump).
- Encourage transfer station siting to allow for separating.
- Construction recycling should be addressed.
- The City should consider subsidizing dumping fees for City residents to encourage proper dumping.
- Objective – 100% recycling citywide – residential and non-residential.
- Start by allowing residents without bins to provide their own bins.
- School districts should participate; provide incentives/partnerships.
- Look comprehensively at how City provides service.
- Consider co-mingling recyclables and separating at the station.
- Cite people for putting trash with recyclables; mandate it.

### *Recreational Facilities*

- Consider spending a minimum percentage of development fees generated by development in each neighborhood: including for parks.
- Fund parks adequately and reinvest in existing parks.
- Consider colleges and universities for joint-use potential.

### *Libraries*

- Large percentage of the population does not use the libraries because the facilities are in disrepair.
- After-school activities in libraries: more programs, staffing and facilities are desirable.
- Include libraries in central community facilities that include many types of facilities.
- Libraries are changing and need to be more up to date. Reinvent the libraries.
- Cybraries work and should be expanded.

### *Recreation Facilities*

- Water polo/pool facilities are very limited.
- Look to City/County partnerships and public/private partnerships to increase opportunities.
- Some potential for regional recreational facilities; can funding come from City's general fund? Other sources?

### **Education**

- School cleanliness is crucial.
- Work with surrounding neighborhoods and neighborhood associations when expanding schools. Apply this not just to RCC. Do allow not further encroachment into historic districts, particularly in Downtown.
- Rethink current campuses to be more urban campuses.
- Regarding annexations: don't build houses ahead of schools!
- The 25 mph speed limit signs are not clear. Use different approaches, such as removable plastic bollards in streets with posted speed limits; this is more clear to people.
- Provide better traffic direction; drop-off areas are not safe.
- Improve traffic safety around schools in fresh ways.
- Regarding the expansion of colleges and universities: concern that they expand sensitively to surrounding neighborhoods.
- Policy 14: don't single out specific groups.
- Most of the education policies proposed should not be included in the General Plan, as they are outside the City's purview.
- There needs to be flexibility in General Plan policies.
- Provide more sidewalks for kids walking to schools.
- Focus on safety and efficiency of the schools.
- Very simply: Advocate for the schools.
- The City needs a better understanding of schools and what they need. This kind of involvement leads to advocacy.
- Continue to work cooperatively with the State to break down barriers to joint use. Policies at the State level often don't work (e.g., liability).
- Universities and colleges are clean industries. Advocate for them. This industry serves our City.
- The City needs to investigate examples of partnerships with school districts in joint-use facilities (e.g., City and School District built Performing Arts Center, Chandler, Arizona).

## **Urban Design**

- How would a linear park work? Who would maintain and have liability? (Public Works for the roadway portion and Recreation and Parks for the median and parkway.)
- Linear park would be eligible for park bonds.
- Design guidelines: should we mandate one style? No – no one dominant sense of architecture exists in Riverside.
- Emulate architecture in certain areas. Be proud of our heritage.
- In design, it's important to match in scale and character, but don't dictate one architectural style.
- Include "A beautiful City" as a goal.
- Provide flexibility for the Brockton Arcade to have its own character (and other areas as well).
- We need communities involved in design.
- The City must stand behind design guidelines and regulation, especially against national chains/firms.
- How do we brand Riverside? Establish the design elements specifically.
- Some verbiage provided in the workbook is too definitive; example – require sidewalks and parkways. Some neighborhoods don't have or need these.

## **General Comments**

- Change "strategies" to "ideas".
- We need action items; distill down the strategies down to more manageable actions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M. The next CAC meeting is July 7, 2003 at City Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.